

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land and Materials Administration

1800 Washington Boulevard · Suite 610 · Baltimore Maryland 21230-1719

410-537-3304 · 800-633-6101 · www.mde.maryland.gov

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October 1, 2026, · 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. ·

Hybrid

Lead Commission Distributed Meeting Material

- Agenda 10/01/2026
- September 2026 Meeting Minutes
- September 2026, Subcommittee Notes

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

October 1, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Hybrid

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks
- Approval of Minutes – September 2026
- Commission Docket
 - Legislative Updates
 - Lead Week 2026
 - Subcommittee Report/Discussion
- Agency Hot Topics/Current Events
 - **MDE** (Maryland Department of the Environment) Fred Banks
 - **MDH** (Maryland Department of Health) Dr. Cliff Mitchell
 - **MDAAP** (American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter) Dr. Michael Ichniowski
 - **MSDE/OCC** (Maryland State Department of Education/Office of Child Care) Manjula Paul
 - **MIA** (Maryland Insurance Administration)
 - **MD-DHCD** (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) Nicola Tran
 - **MSCCA** (Maryland State Child Care Association) Christina Peusch
 - **BC-DHCD** (Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development) Nicole Hart
 - **BCHD** (Baltimore City Health Department): Brionna Adams
 - **BRU** (Baltimore Renters United) Naadiya Hutchinson
 - **GHHI** (Green & Healthy Homes Initiative) Ruth Ann Norton
- Commissioner Comments and Updates
- Public Comments and Updates

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION MINUTES

September 3, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Frederick Banks

Ruth Ann Norton

Nicole Hart

Adam Skolnik

Manjula Paul

Susan Kleinhammer

Michael Ichniowski

Naadiya Hutchinson

Alexandra Nestadt

Nicola Tran

Cliff Mitchell

Barbara Moore

Christina Peusch

Ashly Brooks

Members Absent:

Senator Mary Washington

Jacob Benzaquen

SUMMARY

The meeting updates detail commission governance changes, legislative progress on the Safe Homes Now Act and Senate Bill 0872, ongoing system and policy enhancements for lead-free compliance, and outreach plans for National Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week.

Subcommittee Planning and Launch

- Confirmed launch on September 17 at 1:00 PM for a 90-minute session.
- Agenda includes 30 minutes of orientation followed by 60 minutes of breakout sessions.
- Meetings will utilize Google breakout rooms to support both virtual and in-person participation.
- Commission members will serve as committee anchors, with the option to incorporate outside input.

Commission Membership and Governance

- Welcomed Ashley Brooks as the new child advocacy commission representative.
- Lloyd Freeman's application is in process; A.C. Alrey's application status remains pending.
- Susan Kleinhammer's tenure concluded; redirected to contact MDE to coordinate reapplication procedures.

Environmental Investigation and LURCA System Updates

- System undergoing technical and manual updates to address audit-identified backlogs and address-matching issues.
- Interim manual email process for 24-hour inspection notice is currently impacting certificate issuance.
- LRCA system is expected to restore inspector-led scheduling functionality within 2 to 3 weeks.

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Policy Review of Lead-Free Standards

- Discussed concerns regarding increasing blood lead levels in children residing in certified 'lead-free' housing.
- Frederick Banks indicated a need to rewrite statutes, noting the current 'lead-free' certificate model may require significant policy changes.
- Cliff Mitchell noted that fluctuating lead levels can occur biologically without new environmental exposure in low-level cases.
- Clarified that Komar regulations permit on-site assessments of secondary properties if deemed necessary by health departments.

Safe Homes Now Act Presentation

- Safe Homes Now Act legislation officially moved out of committee.
- Data presented correlates lead violations, high youth asthma rates, and fraud within low-income Baltimore neighborhoods.

Rental Licensing and Safe Homes Now Legislation

- Naadiya Hutchinson reported that 35% of rental units in Baltimore City are unlicensed.
- The housing department faces challenges with inconsistent inspections, lack of a formal tenant complaint process, and insufficient document review.
- The Safe Homes Now bill proposes limiting inspector repeat usage to 8 years, mandating DHCD investigations of tenant complaints, and restricting landlord retaliation.
- Ruth Ann Norton highlighted a failure in the confirmation process between the city and state for validating lead compliance prior to issuing occupancy licenses.

Senate Bill 0872 and Single Residency Occupancy

- Senate Bill 0872 expands coverage to approximately 30,000 to 40,000 previously unprotected units, including owner-occupied rentals, group homes, and halfway houses.
- Frederick Banks confirmed MDE is conducting social media campaigns and forums to inform the regulated community and tenants about the new law.
- Manjula Paul confirmed the legislation covers family childcare and foster homes housing children under age 6 or pregnant women.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week Planning

- The awareness week is scheduled for October 25 through October 31.
- Paula T Montgomery announced a kickoff symposium to be held in Dundalk on October 26.
- Planned activities include a lead-focused film festival at the Pratt Free Library on October 27 and a series of webinars.
- GHHL, MDE, and MDH are exploring community outreach initiatives, including awareness programs for pet and plant lead exposure.

Agency and Program Updates

Maryland Department of Health

- Cliff Mitchell reported the expansion of the Medicaid Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids program statewide, excluding properties governed by formal corporate leases or lead rental registry requirements.

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Baltimore City Health Department updates

- Katherine Taylor announced a mock bid workshop for minority contractors on September 9th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at 3000 Dream Park Drive.
- The application process to replace Miss Hart on the commission is on hold pending the organizational transition of the Baltimore City DHC.
- Brionna Adams announced the hiring of a new environmental supervisor for the Baltimore City Health Department.
- Lead Week programming is scheduled Tuesday through Thursday.
- The Tuesday resource fair at Early Head Start in Park Heights (21215) will include point-of-care testing.

Baltimore Renters United

- Naadiya Hutchinson reported the "Safe Homes Now" legislation passed out of committee and is awaiting a floor vote.
- A People's Hearing is scheduled for September 17th at Bowie State University as part of a national tour.
- Ruth Ann Norton will keynote the CDC grantee conference on September 21st in Atlanta.

Maryland Department of the Environment Updates

- Frederick Banks confirmed that disturbing conditions of an initial lead-free certificate, such as removing enclosures, invalidates the certificate.
- Jeanny Pope clarified that disturbing leaded surfaces during renovation triggers MDE abatement and renovation regulatory requirements.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION COMMISSION

Sub-Committee Meeting
September 17, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 0.m.

Members Present:

Frederick Banks

Ruth Ann Norton

Nicole Hart

Adam Skolnik

Manjula Paul

Susan Kleinhammer

Naadiya Hutchinson

Cliff Mitchell

Barbara Moore

Ashly Brooks

Guests

Patrick Connor

Summary

Monthly commission meeting established multiple committees and operational guidelines for lead poisoning prevention.

Commission frequency and appointments

Commission meetings will remain monthly. Appointment status was discussed.

New committee formation

Housing, health, and community engagement committees were established. Guidelines require monthly meetings and 3 initial goals.

Decisions

- **Relocation of insurance fund review** The lead insurance bond fund implementation research scope was officially relocated to the training and accreditation committee.
- **Monthly committee meeting frequency standard** Subcommittees will hold monthly meetings through the end of the year before undergoing re-evaluation.
- **Committee membership and quorum standards** Committees are structured to contain between five and ten members, requiring a quorum of at least three members for official meetings.

Details

- **Commission Welcome and Intern Introduction:** Frederick Banks -MDE- opened the meeting, announced public meeting clearance, and introduced Lauren Auster as a source intern from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health whose charge is to support staff and report on committee progress.
- **Commission Meeting Frequency and Roll Call:** Ruth Ann Norton noted that commission meetings will remain monthly despite discussions of moving them too quarterly. A roll call identified participants including Barbara Moore, Frederick Banks, Ruth Ann Norton, Adam Skolnik, Manjula Paul, Susan Kleinhammer.
- **Housing Policy Committee Formation:** Frederick Banks outlined the health policy committee's charge to increase testing and review screening strategies. Manjula Paul and Ashly Brooks agreed to co-chair the sub-committee, with Ruth Ann Norton, Shamola Dye, Briona Adams as subcommittee members. Susan Kleinhammer and Patrick T Connor volunteered to serve as public members on the housing and inspection subcommittees.
- **Resource Development Committee Formation:** The resource development committee was formed to build a case to state agencies, healthcare institutions, and philanthropy to create a lead and healthy homes fund. Assigned members include Michael Ichniowski, Frederick Banks, Michael McNite, Manjula Paul, Barbara Moore, and Sheneka Frasier. (Need to confirm Co- Chairs)
- **Training and Accreditation Committee Formation:** The training and accreditation committee was organized to focus on contractor training, accreditation scaling, and workforce development. Adam Skolnik and Manjula Paul agreed to chair the sub-committee. MDE assigned the following staff to work on sub-committee; Felicia Graves and Dantrell Jones. Members of the public that agreed to participate are West Stewart, Patrick T Connor, and Susan Kleinhammer (Need to confirm Co- Chairs)
- **Lead Testing Subcommittee**
- **Community Engagement Formation:** The community engagement sub-committee was formed. Members include: Allie Nestadt, Naadiya Hutchinson, Nicola Tran. Chritina Peusch. MDE representative will be Paula Montgomery, and the MDH representative will be Theo Williams. Members of the public include: Craig Freeland and Carlie Shasoon. (Need to confirm Co- Chairs)
- **Legislative Committee Formation:** The legislative committee sub-committee was formed. Adam Skolnik and Fred Banks agreed to co-chair. Members of the public will include: Riley Roshong, Wes Stewart, Susan Kleinhammer, Dylan Campbell, Kevin Stanley, and Hugo Cantu. Adam Skolnik agreed to confirm Hugo Cantu's participation on the committee.
- **Lead Insurance Bond Fund Ad Hoc Committee Realignment:** At the request of MDE, the ad hoc committee originally tasked with researching the implementation of the lead insurance bond fund was moved into the training and accreditation committee without objections.
- **Committee Meeting Guidelines and Operational Rules:** Frederick Banks established that committees will initially meet monthly with a size ranging between five and ten members, requiring at least three valid members present for a meeting. Meetings are capped at one hour with agendas distributed one week in advance. Documents must be submitted to the chair two weeks in advance, and each committee must start with three goals aimed at recommending public policy actions to the state to protect children from lead poisoning and support affordable housing.